

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. In combination with a power port assembly providing power to portable electronic devices while in transit on a mobile platform, an interface comprising:

 a cover adapted for connection to the power port assembly and configured for attachment thereto within an existing structure of the power port assembly;
and

 a plurality of connectors included with the cover and adapted for connection to portable electronic devices.

2. The interface according to claim 1, wherein the cover is configured dimensionally to about the same specifications as an existing cover of the power port assembly and adapted for replacement therewith.

3. The interface according to claim 2, wherein the cover is adapted for connection to existing connection members of the power port assembly.

4. The interface according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of connectors are adapted for connection to a portable computer for communicating with an on-board system.

5. The interface according to claim 4, wherein at least one of the plurality of connectors is configured for connection to an RJ type cable.

6. The interface according to claim 4, wherein at least one of the plurality of connectors is configured for connection to a network type cable.

7. The interface according to claim 4, wherein at least one of the plurality of connectors is configured for connection to a USB type cable.

8. The interface according to claim 1, wherein the power port assembly is provided as part of a passenger seat on-board an aircraft and the plurality of connectors are accessible by a passenger within the passenger seat.

9. A replacement cover for a power port assembly on a commercial aircraft having about the same dimensions as a cover being replaced and an opening therein to allow access to an existing power port, and comprising:

a plurality of connectors integrally formed therewith and adapted for connection to portable electronic devices for communicating with systems onboard the commercial aircraft.

10. The replacement cover according to claim 9, further comprising connection means adapted for use in connecting the replacement cover to existing fasteners.

11. The replacement cover according to claim 9, configured with a width of about five inches and a length of about three inches.

12. The replacement cover according to claim 9, wherein at least one of the plurality of connectors is configured for connection to an RJ type cable.

13. The replacement cover according to claim 9, wherein at least one of the plurality of connectors is configured for connection to a network type cable.

14. The replacement cover according to claim 9, wherein at least one of the plurality of connectors is configured for connection to a USB type cable.

15. A method of retrofitting a commercial aircraft to provide connectors for connection with portable electronic devices to access on-board systems, the method comprising the steps of:

removing an existing cover of a power port assembly; and
attaching a replacement cover adapted for connection using existing mounting members, the replacement cover having an opening therein for accessing a power port, and provided with a plurality of connectors for connection to portable electronic devices for communicating with systems on-board the commercial aircraft.

16. The method according to claim 15, further comprising connecting appropriate wiring to the connectors based upon the connector type.

17. The method according to claim 15, further comprising using an existing communication box to provide wiring to the connectors.

18. The method according to claim 15, wherein the connectors are adapted for connection to a plurality of laptop computer interfaces.